

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 02706 021532Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 028960

P 012231Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 669

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2706

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FOR CEN DIRECTOR DAVID LAZAR ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH DR. BURSTIN ABOUT HIS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH CEN

DIRECTOR

REF: BELIEZE; SAN JOSE 2637; SAN JOSE 2653

1. DURING ONE-HOUR CONVERSATION WITH LUIS BURSTIN
ON JUNE 27, EMBOFF TOLD HIM THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS
DEEPLY DISTURBED OVER THE WAY CEN DIRECTOR DAVID LAZAR'S
CONVERSATION WAS REFLECTED IN BURSTIN'S MEMORANDUM OF
THEIR CONVERSATION. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT IN THE
VERSION OF THE CONVERSATION BASED UPON LAZAR'S NOTES
LEFT WITH THE EMBASSY THERE WAS ONLY SLIGHT REFERENCE
TO THE SORRY ECONOMIC STATE OF THE COUNTRY EVEN THOUGH
BURSTIN'S MEMORANDUM FOCUSES AHLENGTH ON THAT THEME.
EMBOFF SAID THE SECOND POINT THAT WAS HIGHLY
DISTURBING WAS THE REFLECTION OF LAZAR MENTIONING
A POSSIBLE "ARMED INTERVENTION" IF EVENTS IN
COSTA RICA INDICATED AN INTERRUPTION OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WAS ABOUT TO OCCUR.

2. BURSTIN READ FROM LAZAR MEMCON AND OBSERVED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN JO 02706 021532Z

THAT WITH A COUPLE OF MINOR EXCEPTIONS THE VERSION

WAS CORRECT AS WRITTEN, BUT NOTED THE OMISSION OF THE DISCUSSION OF THE CRITICAL EXONOMIC SITUATION THAT IS JUST OVER THE HORIZON--SIX MONTHS AWAY. BURSTIN CALLED IN HIS WIFE MARI SHORTLY AFTER CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF BEGAN AND ASKED HER TO PROVIDE HER VERSION ON BOTH THE POINTS MENTIONED. MARI RECITED THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF WHAT SHE SAID WAS A LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH LAZAR OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND CONFIRMED HER HUSBAND'S REPORT THAT "ARMED INTERVENTION" BY THE U.S. WAS A POSSIBILITY FORESEEN BY LAZAR IN THE EVENT OF A THREAT TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER.

3. EMBOFF STATED THAT HE WAS IN A POOR POSITION AS A NON-PARTICIPANT TO ARGUE WITH A PARTICIPANT IN THE CONVERSATION OVER WHAT WAS SAID OR NOT SAID ABOUT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DETERIORATION OF THE COUNTRY OR ABOUT PRESIDENT ODUBER'S FUNCTIONAL QUALITIES IN OFFICE, BUT EMBOFF WAS SURE THAT THIS EMBASSY WOULD NOT EVEN CONSIDER RECOMMENDING ARMED INTERVENTION AS AN ALTERNATIVE U.S. POLICY IN THIS DAY AND AGE. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT LAZAR WAS UNDOUBTEDLY REFERRING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF DIPLOMATIC INTERVENTION THAT WOULD BE INTENDED TO DISSUADE ANYONE FROM UNDERTAKING A RASH MOVE THAT WOULD ENDANGER COSTA RICA'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AS A TRADITIONAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

4. BURSTIN NOTED THAT HE APPRECIATED THE DANGER IMPLICIT IN HIS MEMCON WITH LAZAR FOR THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE IT COULD DO TO U.S./COSTA RICAN RELATIONS. HE ASSURED EMBOFF THAT NO ONE OTHER THAN FIGUERES WOULD EVER SEE THE MEMCON. HE OFFERED TO CALL FIGUERES RIGHT AWAY TO INFORM HIM OF OUR CONCERNS. EMBOFF TOLD HIM THAT SUCH A CALL WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY AS THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE TAKING UP THE SAME POINTS WITH EX-PRESIDENT FIGUERES ON JULY 29.

(BURSTIN CALLED HIM ANYWAY.)

TODMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERVENTION, PERSONAL OPINION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANJO02706
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750229-0468
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750795/aaaadgzb.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS, LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS, LIMDIS
Reference: 75 SAN JOSE 2637, 75 SAN JOSE 2653
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION WITH DR. BURSTIN ABOUT HIS MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH CEN
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, CS, (BURNSTIN, LUIS), (LAZAR, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006